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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/974,046	10/11/2001	Satoshi Shinada	Q66672	7606

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EXAMINER

NGHIEM, MICHAEL P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2861

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/974,046

Applicant(s)

SHINADA, SATOSHI

Examiner

Michael P Nghiem

Art Unit

2861

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 January 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
- "L-shaped cross section" (page 7, lines 17-18) should be -- T-shaped cross section --.
Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the contact (claims 7-9, 15-18, 20) must be shown or the feature(s) cancelled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Asai et al. (US 5,148,194).

Asai et al. discloses all the claimed features of the invention including:

- an inkjet printer (column 1, lines 14-18) comprising:

- an ink cartridge (710-712), wherein the ink cartridge is one of ink cartridges that are detachably attached to a cartridge accommodating portion (732) of the inkjet printer as aligned in parallel (Fig. 8), each ink cartridge having at least one engaging portion (A, B) formed at a side of the ink cartridge that faces an adjacent ink cartridge (Fig. 8), wherein a set of the opposed engaging portions of each pair of adjacent ink cartridges forms a matching set in which the engaging portions engage with each other to position the adjacent ink cartridges with respect to each other (Fig. 8), and wherein the matching sets are shaped and located such that a fitting structure between one pair of adjacent ink cartridges and a fitting structure between another pair of adjacent ink cartridges are different in form (Fig. 8);

- each matching set has a different shape (Fig. 8);

- one engaging portion of each matching set is a projection (B) and the other is a recess (A);

- each engaging portion extends in a direction parallel with a direction in which the associated ink cartridge is moved for attaching the ink cartridge to the cartridge accommodating portion (Fig. 8);

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- each matching set allows the associated two ink cartridges to move relative with each other in a direction parallel with a direction in which the ink cartridges are moved for attaching the ink cartridges to the cartridge accommodating portion (Fig. 8);

- each ink cartridge includes a main body (bottom portions of 710-712) and a sub body (top portions of 710-712) connected to the main body, and each engaging portion is formed in the sub body of the associated ink cartridge (A's and B's are formed in top portions);

- the cartridge accommodating portion has a plurality of connecting members (electrical lead means, column 7, lines 28-29), wherein each ink cartridge includes a contact (702) that contacts one of the connecting members when the ink cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion (column 7, lines 28-31);

- each contact is located offset from the middle of the associated ink cartridge in an aligning direction of the ink cartridges (Fig. 7);

- the contacts of adjacent ink cartridges contact a common connecting member (electrical connectors are common in the art).

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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Nghiem whose telephone number is (703) 306-3445. An inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist at (703) 308-0956.



Michael Nghiem

March 7, 2002